

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY,
CAMDEN VICINAGE

Shawn Woodward v. Correctional Officer Myers, et al.

Woodward · No. Civ. No. 23-450 (RMB)(SAK) · Decided February 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey dismissed Shawn Woodward’s pro se prisoner civil rights action without prejudice after legal mail was returned as undeliverable. The court relied on Local Civil Rule 10.1(a) and allowed the plaintiff 30 days to seek reopening by showing good cause for failing to update his address.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, Camden Vicinage
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Renee Marie Bumb
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, Camden Vicinage
DECIDED	February 4, 2026
DOCKET	Civ. No. 23-450 (RMB)(SAK)
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Sua sponte dismissal without prejudice in a pro se prisoner civil rights action after the plaintiff's legal mail was returned as undeliverable and he failed to update his address.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Sua sponte enforcement of the court's local rule governing an unrepresented party's obligation to maintain a current address.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential district court memorandum order

TOPICS

- prisoners rights
- civil rights
- sanctions
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil procedure
- Prisoner civil rights
- Local rule enforcement
- Sanctions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Court could dismiss the action without prejudice under Local Civil Rule 10.1(a) after the plaintiff failed to advise the Court of a change of address and his legal mail was returned as undeliverable.
2. Whether the plaintiff should be permitted to seek reopening upon a timely showing of good cause for the failure to update his address.

HOLDINGS

1. Dismissal without prejudice was an appropriate remedy for the plaintiff's noncompliance with Local Civil Rule 10.1(a) after his legal mail was returned as undeliverable.
2. The plaintiff may seek to reopen the action if, within 30 days after entry of the order, he submits a writing showing good cause for failing to timely notify the Court of his new address.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“unrepresented parties must advise the Court of any change in their... address within seven days of being apprised of such change by filing a notice of said change with the Clerk.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

This was a pro se prisoner civil rights action. On September 10, 2025, the plaintiff's legal mail was returned to the Court as undeliverable, indicating that the Court did not have a usable current address for him.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was pending in the District of New Jersey when the Court received the plaintiff's legal mail as undeliverable on September 10, 2025. The Court dismissed the case without prejudice under Local Civil Rule 10.1(a), directed the Clerk to close the matter, and allowed the plaintiff 30 days to seek reopening by showing good cause for failing to provide a current address.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Archie v. Dept. of Corr., Civ. No. 12-2466 (RBK/JS), 2015 WL 333299, at *1 (D.N.J. Jan. 23, 2015)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
CAMDEN VICINAGE SHAWN WOODWARD,; Civ. No. 23-450 (RMB)(SAK) Plaintiff,;
MEMORANDUM ORDER v.: CORRECTIONAL OFFICER MYERS, et al., Defendants.: This matter comes before the Court sua sponte in this pro se prisoner civil rights action.

On September 10, 2025, Plaintiffs legal mail was returned to the Court as undeliverable. (Dkt. No. 65). Local Civil Rule 10.1(a) provides, in relevant part: unrepresented parties must advise the Court of any change in their... address within seven days of being apprised of such change by filing a notice of said change with the Clerk. Failure to file a notice of change may result in the imposition of sanctions by the Court.

Dismissing a complaint without prejudice is an appropriate remedy for noncompliance with this rule. See *Archie v. Dept. of Corr.*, Ctv. No. 12-2466 (RBK/JS), 2015 WL 333299, at *1 (D.N.J. Jan. 23, 2015) (collecting cases). IT IS therefore on this 4th day of February 2026 ORDERED that this case is dismissed without prejudice pursuant to Local Civil Rule 10.i(a), and the Clerk shall close this matter; and it is further ORDERED that Plaintiff may seek to reopen this matter if, within 30 days from the date of entry of this Order, he submits to the Clerk of Court, at Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse, 4th & Cooper Streets, Room 1050, Camden, New Jersey, 08101, a writing showing good cause why he did not timely apprise the Court of his new address; and it is further ORDERED that the Clerk shall mail a copy of this Order to Plaintiffs last known address, RENEE MARTE BUMB CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE